



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/657,940  
Filing Date: September 9, 2003  
Applicant: Jason D. Meridew, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3733  
Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USE OF A SELF-TAPPING RESORBABLE SCREW  
Attorney Docket: 5490-000341

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed December 26, 2006, and prior to examination of the present application, please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.